15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
L.I., New York
September 7, 1949

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, 5, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Recently, I wrote to Mr. Wayte Raymond, Montauk, N.Y., concerning the series of 1785 Inimica Tyrannis America - Americana - Confederatio Cents.

Mr. Raymond referred me to you as a collector possessing one or more varieties of the above series.

Some time ago, I obtained a 1785 Inimica Tyrannis America - Confederatio Cent, the variety with the large circle of stars reverse.

The acquisition of this coin brought forth a great interest in the entire "Confederatio" group- the three main varieties and various mulings.

At the present time, I am trying to obtain the history of and the whereabouts of all of the known specimans of each variety. If possible, I am also attempting to obtain photographs of all known specimans.

This material, when properly checked and compared, will be the basis for a detailed article in the "Numismatist."

Any information you could give me concerning any coins in your collection, their history, when and who purchased from, etc., would be greatly appreciated.

Also, any information you may have concerning the comparative rarity of the various varieties in relation to each other.

Thanking you in advance for your interest, I remain,

Sincerely,

John J. Ford, Jr.

P.S. A stamped, self addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

September 13, 1949

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Ford:

I was very interested in your letter of September 7, 1949, and not alone will I encourage you to investigate the Confederatio matter but will also encourage you to do the same checking on all of the rare Machin's Mill coins. In other words, the entire New York series is very hazy as to the number of specimens.

Primarily I wish to point out to you that Jim Kelly, a dealer of Dayton, Ohio, has a 1785 AMERICANA for sale in fine condition. He sent it to me on approval, but since I had an uncirculated one I was not interested.

This is going to be a very interesting workout for you because you are going to be confronted with those who have Bowen copies and those who have electrotypes and other imitations. In my own collection I have the AMERICA with small stars, the AMERICANA with large stars, and the GEORGE WASHINGTON Confederatio. I have the Clinton and both of the Liber Natus, and quite a number of other Colonial rarities. As a start I think you should go through the sale catalogs in the American Numismatic Society Library and trace the various known specimens of these coins through those books. It is a difficult job but you should enlarge your project so as to make it cover the entire series.

If you will send me a list of those to whom you have written I will be glad to make additions of those who might have these items.

Incidentally, I also have electrotypes of many of these items, and I believe the Chase National Bank has only electrotypes of them.

I have a number of these Colonials marked in old catalogs in my library and could possibly eliminate some of the detail work for you as soon as I know a little more about your project.

I have a great many Colonial duplicates, and if you are a collector of Colonial coins we might be able to exchange.

The best of luck to you, and you may count on me for such assistance as I am in a position to give you.

Sincerely,

EPNewman/me

15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
Long Island, New York
September 16, 1949

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, 5, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your detailed reply to my letter concerning the "Confederatio" series.

I started my study some time ago and have gone over too many catalogs looking only for the "Confederatio" coins to be able to go back and start over again. There is no doubt that I should have included similiar material, but, perhaps later on. The Confederatio Cents are a real job in themselves.

N.J. Rev with 2 of group
N.Y. Excels
with Confed.

To begin with, can you tell me why you believe that the series were stuck at Machin's Mill. Is there any actual proof that the coins were not struck in Birmingham by Thomas Wyon? If they were struck in New York, who cut the dies and how can the various mulings be explained.

The AMERICA-Large Circle of Stars piece that I have was purchased from Jim Kelly. I have written him inquiring about any others that he might have. I am also trying to obtain the history of the speciman I obtained from him.

Bolens are not the problem I thought they would be. To date I have identified the Prann coin and two others as worn Bolens. The Prann piece was in the Buffalo ANA Convention Sale, August 1947. Bolen cut one Obverse die and two Reverse dies. They were struck as two main varieties, AMERICANA with Large Circle of Stars and AMERICANA with the Small Circle of Stars. He also muled the two Reverses to form a third variety. There is a possibilty that there is another Bolen die for the AMERICANA - Small Circle coin, but I am not sure. In any event, Bolens and Electros are not deceptive.

To date I have contacted Stacks, Raymond, Prann, Kosoff, Boyd, and the ANS collection. By carefully going through several hundred Auction Sale Catalogs, I have compiled lists of the known varieties with the number known of each. Mass ~~Auction~~ Hist Clark
Yale Univ.
Johns Hopkins

All of this is still in it's infancy. There is no doubt that I will uncover other specimans and information in time. I feel that I may as well do a complete job while I am at it.

If you wish, I will send you a breakdown of the information I have collected to date. Your comments would be greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, there are very few "Numismatists" with either a knowledge or an interest in our early American coins.

Any references that you may find would help me greatly. I am particularly keen on finding out where these coins were struck and by whom. There is little doubt that they were anything else but a proposal for coinage.

You could assist me greatly if you would send the three Confederatios that you have to Mr. William Clark, C/o American Numismatic Society, 155th Street and Broadway, Bronx, New York. Bill Clark could photograph the coins for me and I would have the privelege of examining them.

Tom Elder stated that only two of the GEN. WASHINGTON mulings were known. Your speciman is the fourth that I have located.

Before I close, I would like to give you a little information concerning my background.

I have been interested in United States coins for several years and for a while before the War, was employed by Stacks, the NYC Dealers. After returning from Service, I lost interest in Numismatics and put all of my time into raising a family.

About a year ago I renewed my interest and have been hot and heavy at it since.

I am a Collector of sorts. I collect anything that strikes my fancy. My particular interests are the coins that have a historical background. Among others, I like Hard Times Tokens, Store Cards, U.S. Counterstamps, Colonials and Obsolete Bank Notes. Any material that I purchase for my collection is not for sale.

While collecting, I also deal in coins on a part-time basis. Eventually, I hope to become a full time dealer in U.S. material only.

In my mind, there is room for a dealer who is a student and a cataloger, and not just a hoarder of rolls and an "Expert" on Uncirculated Jefferson Nickels.

I am willing to exchange material back and forth within my collection. I am also interested in obtaining any material that I in turn can trade or sell. At this time I sort of like to let my collection pay for it self.

One of my greatest interests is my Numismatic Library.

Now that I've sounded off, I believe that I will close.

Again, many thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

John J. Ford, Jr.

John J. Ford, Jr.

September 26, 1949

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Ford:

In answer to your letter of September 16, 1949, I can only tell you that since the Machin's Mills operators were the same group who operated the Vermont Mint they could not have been entirely engaged in counterfeiting British coppers. Crosby shows the Confederatio dies to be tied in with the New Jersey reverse used on regular New Jerseys and with a New York Excelsior used on regular New Yorks. Since the Immune Columbia dies were definitely made by Wyon and brought to this country and used here for making one side of a Vermont coin and one side of an imitation British half penny, there is no reason to assume that other dies were not brought here which were used here. There was so much political agitation to get through an authorized coinage for New York that it seems obvious to me that the Machin's Mills backers were trying to legitimatize their pattern issues. I'll go into this more in detail after I see what you are working on.

With respect to those you have contacted, I might add that you must check the Masters Historical Society collection in Boston, which is the Appleton collection, I believe; also T. James Clark; perhaps Yale University and Johns Hopkins University.

I would very much appreciate a breakdown of the information you have collected up to now. As you suggested, in due course I will get my specimens to the American Numismatic Society for pictures.

You sound very much like myself as a collector. I collect Colonial coins, Colonial paper money, the U.S. series of coins, sales tax tokens, Civil War tokens, Hard Times tokens, redeemable currency, state bank notes, foreign coins circulated in the U.S., pioneer coins, and anything else foreign which intrigues me.

Good luck, and keep going.

Sincerely,

EPNewman/me

October 5, 1949

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Ford:

I am enclosing herewith a memorandum from the book which Virgil Brand used to make entries of the coins he acquired. This indicates the Confederatios he had and notes on those he knew about.

In accordance with your request, I am sending my Confederatios to the American Numismatic Society for photographing and for your examination. They consist of:

Crosby Plate VII No. 13 (AMERICA, large stars) in uncirculated condition.

Crosby Plate VII No. 12 (AMERICANA, small stars), the condition of which was classed by Mr. Newcomer and others as extremely fine, although actually it is probably one of those classifications which is extremely fine for the piece and actually only fine with a rough planchet.

Crosby Plate VII No. 14 (Washington Confederatio), which is the Parmalee specimen. Very good.

These three coins are from the Newcomer-E.H.R. Green collection. Newcomer had no others. The above specimen with small stars may be the Brand piece, but I have not checked the plates in the catalogs to determine what the Maris, Wilson, etc. specimens look like. You no doubt will be able to tell me.

I believe it is very important in your article that you publish pictures of the Bolens along with the genuine pieces.

As long as you are taking pictures of these particular coins in my collection I would like a copy of these pictures for myself. Since you could take pictures of a couple of extra coins along with those above mentioned, I am sending to the American Numismatic Society for photographing the following:

1785 Connecticut Cent, Miller 6(5)-M, and

1787 Imitation British Half Pence, which is a completely new variety from any heretofore located.

Please see that I get these back at the earliest possible time.

As you get further information, please submit it to me and I believe I will be able to help you further.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EPNewman/me

cc: Mr. Sydney P. Noe
American Numismatic Society
Broadway bet. 155th and 156th Streets
New York 32, New York

The book listing the coins of Virgil Brand contains the following on page 242:

Confederatio.
Originally the property of Ex. Mayor Hiram S. Shurtleff from Est. of Mayor Shurtleff through Dudley R. Child to S. S. Crosby to Parmalee to Hall
Obverse No. 1. Crosby page 316
Reverse C. Crosby page 316. Plate 7-10 identical.
See also Crosby page 333. Supposed to be Unique. Parmalee sale June 1890 Lot 559. Cost T2.KK Very poor.
This piece brought $60. in Crosby sale Lot 1353

Leavy cataloge 1873 Lot '97.
Confederatio. See Am. Journal of Numismatics, Oct. 92, Vol. XXVII - No. 2
Obverse No. 1. Confederatio. group of 24 rays
Reverse A. INIMICA TYRANNIS•AMERICA•
Crosby Plate VII-13. Supposed to be unique. Found at Berlin Conn. 1861. See Crosby page 315. Offered in Parmalee sale June 1890 Lot. Not sold bid in for Mr. Parmalee. Purchased from Mr. P. Feby. 1891. 2K.KK Very good.

Confederatio (Stickney sale June 1908
(Lot 374 Sold for $800.
Obverse No. 2 Confederatio. group of 16 rays. 1785
Reverse B INIMICA TYRANNIS•AMERICANA•
Crosby Plate VII-12 Offered in Parmalee sale Lot 598 Plate V June 1890. Not sold bid in for Mr. Parmalee. (Purchased from Mr. P. Feb. 1891 TKI.KK. Very fine. (but not the specimen in his sale much finer). Chapman had a second specimen Oct. '95. I am unable to trace this piece. Perhaps the finest known. Better than the one illustrated by Mr. Crosby. Better than Maris Sale Lot 321 with plate. Better than Bushnell Lot 882 Plate V. Mr. Chapman says only 5 known Warner sale catalogue. I think I have seen more. A finer specimen than Wilson sale Lot 289 Plate II. We have not been able to trace the origin of this cent. You will see that my specimen is much better than the one in his sale. Mr. Parmalee had two specimens. Where he procured my specimen I never could find out definitely but probably from the Maris sale Lot.

October 5, 1949

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Curator
American Numismatic Society
Broadway bet. 155th and 156th Streets
New York 32, New York

Dear Mr. Noe:

Mr. John J. Ford has asked me to send the three Confederatio coins in my collection to the Museum for his examination and photography, which coins are enclosed herewith. I am also enclosing two coins which can be photographed at the same time.

This is a very interesting subject he is investigating and I know you will enjoy helping him.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/me
Encs.

JOHN J. FORD, JR.
Numismatist
15 ALDIN LANE, ISLAND TREES
HICKSVILLE, L. I., N. Y.

October 13, 1949

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your coins arrived at the Society on Monday. I asked Bill Clarke to have the coins photographed as soon as possible and returned to you immediately. This was in accordance with your wishes.

Yesterday I examined the three Confederatios and picked up two sets of prints of the photographs. One set is enclosed, together with the prints of your two pieces left over when I cut up my set of prints.

The balance of the day was spent examining the ANS Library in an attempt to obtain additional information concerning the series of Confederatio Cents.

Your Crosby Pl. VII, No. 12 (Americana - L. Stars) is a tough coin to place. I believe that it is the 6th specimen known. From all present indications it is the coin sold in the Maris Coll. by Stan Henkels & Co. 1886. (Lot #321 @ $100) In any event, I would call it Fine to V. Fine with a partly corroded and/or granulated planchet. As soon as I positively place it I will let you know.

The "GEN. WASHINGTON" piece is definately the Parmelee coin. It can be traced to Chapman then to Ten Eyck. Newcomer probably purchased it at the Ten Eyck sale. Four of these coins are now known.

The superb Crosby Pl. VII, No. 13 (America - L. Stars) is the finest known of five specimens. It is a trifle heavier than the ANS specimen or mine for that matter. Outside of the history you attach to it (Newcomer-Green), I can find nothing. That is "Nothing" up to now.

You state that your three coins are the only "Confederatios" that Newcomer had. This clashes with the long winded history of my specimen as obtained from Jim Kelly. Kelly got the story from Johnson of the St. Louis Stamp & Coin and swears that it is true.

Newcomer could have owned two "Americas" or else either my coin or yours came from Green with another previous source than friend Newcomer. This is one problem we will have to figure out.

The page from Virgil Brand's notebook is more than a little confusing. Let's go over it together-

The first coin fits in with my information. Crosby Pl. VII, No. 10, is the US LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA mulling. My records showed that it was finally purchased by Dr. J. Hall of Boston. Where it is now I do not know.

The second coin also makes sense. It is the poorest of the AMERICA coins and was discovered in 1861. The problem here is- who was Mr. P. doing business with in February 1891? Did he sell it to Brand? (I don't even know if Brand was active or even alive at that date)

The third coin has me completely confused. What Brand is talking about is beyond me. He seems to be describing and discussing several pieces. Perhaps you can read it over carefully and let me know, in basic English, exactly what coins or how many are under consideration. There are two specimans that I have not been able to trace either forward or backward. They are the Parmelee and Stickney coins.

In this page of notes by Brand; Is he describing coins that he himself purchased? Can you figure out his code and let me know the selling prices described. Why would Brand put figures in code if he did not buy the pieces at those prices? I really am in a quandry.

Before I close, I would like to take a chance and ask you a very simple question. Would it be at all possible to obtain, at any figure within reason, your speciman of the "America" dies. I know that you collect Colonials and undoubtedly highly prize this particular coin, but I am crazy about the piece. If I have ever wanted a coin, I want this one.

The Confederatio series really fascinates me and as you know, I collect what I like with little system. I would like to obtain the finest speciman of any of the Confederatios, and this coin is the best known of the "America" die.

So as not to spoil your collection in it's entirity, I can offer you the second finest speciman known together with my complete collection of obsolete notes, cash, or as I said above, anything within reason.

Condition probably means less here where every specimen is well known and excessively rare and where inferior coins have sold for more than slightly better ones. However, I would really like to own your Uncirculated coin.

If you would rather have another rare Colonial- or fine Patterns- anything I have in choice coins is available.

I know I am being extremely presumptious in even suggesting that you contemplate disposal of a coin from your collection, but as I said before- I really like this piece.

Thanks again for your very fine cooperation and interest. Please write as soon as you can.

Sincerely,

John J. Ford, Jr.

John J. Ford, Jr.

October 20, 1949

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
15 Aldin Lane, Island Trees
Hicksville, L.I., New York

Dear Mr. Ford:

The Society hasn't returned my coins as yet but I assume they will be coming along soon. The photographs turned out very nicely.

As to the coin you got from Jim Kelly, I can only state that it probably came from the Green collection, as there was difficulty in determining which coins in the Green collection came from the Newcomer collection. I have an old list of the Newcomer collection and my coin is on it and yours is not. That is why I believe Newcomer should be left out of the chain of title of your coin.

As far as Virgil Brand's notebook is concerned, I imagine that Brand dealt directly with Mr. Parmalee. When Brand describes his third type of Confederatio coin he is discussing several pieces. He certainly did not have more than the one piece he described, and there is nothing unusual about putting figures down in code if he didn't buy the pieces. He just used the code for convenience. But it certainly gives his information as to the other pieces he knew about. I think it is remarkable that that section of the notebook makes as much sense as it does.

So far as making an exchange with me, I of course am not very much enthused. I think you make a pickup in buying your coin from Kelly. These coins just are not appreciated. I acquired two coins out of the Kelly list too, the Clinton cent and the New Jersey Immunis Columbia. They are both lovely uncirculated coins and were obtained to improve mine which are in fine condition only. I don't know what you have in your collection which might intrigue me, but for the present I hate to try to work out an exchange when I feel so unenthusiastic about anything you could suggest to me. Let me sleep on the idea a while, and if you have any further thoughts let me hear from you. You certainly do not hurt my feelings by asking for this coin, as others have asked for coins I have also.

Please keep plugging on the Confederatio problem, and don't hesitate to ask me any further questions.

Incidentally, I believe Mr. Boyd owns the Crosby Plate VII No. 10. It is such a miserable piece that it is not worth looking at.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. FORD, JR.
Numismatist
15 ALDIN LANE, ISLAND TREES
HICKSVILLE, L. I., N. Y.

December 5, 1949

Dear Mr. Newman:

Since the arrival of your October 20th letter the interest in the Confederatio cents has died a slow death. Your letter had nothing to do with it at all. I just went as far as I could, and when I couldn't go any further, I stopped. Every catalog was checked and I attempted to find out where all existing specimens were at present. However, no one answered my plea for information published in the Numismatist, so I decided to sit tight with what information I had and to try again later on. If every collector and dealer were as cooperative as you, I would have the final copy in Stuart Mosher's hands now. Boyd ignored my last three letters, and many other collectors decided to keep their collections top secret.

I am still hot about your "America" Confederatio and have been racking my mind for something to offer you. I think that I have it. Do you have a 1858 $10 Gold? I can offer you the extremely rare "P" mint 1858 of which even Green only had one.

The coin is about extremely fine and is about the second best obtainable specimen. Six pieces are known in all. Three are Proofs and two of these are forever off the market. One is in the Mint Collection and the other is owned by the ANS. The third Mehl sold early this year in the Green (Doctor G.) collection for $4,250.00. In 1946 Mehl sold the extremely fine Atwater coin for $3,675- This particular piece is as good as the Atwater specimen.

I am willing to trade this desirable item for your coin and $1250- Or the 1858 Eagle and my America (Second only to yours) for your coin and $1500.00. (I figure my Confederatio at $250 as I have been offered that for it.)

If you want the Eagle alone I will have to figure something out. In any event it is the rarest Ten Dollars Gold and one of the very rarest regular series U.S. coins.

Sincerely,

J. J. Ford, Jr.

JJR

December 13, 1949

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Ford:

Your dismal letter of December 5 is at hand. You should not let the failure to get answers disturb you. The reason people often keep their collections top secret is because they do not wish their coins pronounced non genuine or they are afraid the information will be misused.

For your information, Mr. Boyd has Crosby Nos. 10, 12 and 14 and I will endeavor to find out which particular specimens he has. I do, however, want you to let me know who else you wrote who didn't answer you.

This is a strange world. Apparently some numismatists want to block articles on certain subjects so they can state their own coins are rarer than they are. Many of them overpaid for their coins and are ashamed of it. I have experienced many such oddities among collectors.

I am enclosing herewith my electro of the Americana with large stars, and I want to know if the die break on the reverse appears on any of the genuine coins of which you have pictures. From what you tell me it seems as though there is no such coin as this and probably Bolen invented the item.

I am not interested in the 1858 Eagle as that is just another date as far as I am concerned.

Above all, do not stop working on the Confederatio item but enlarge your field to include all of the items tied into it by die variety, as there actually are only a few of the others. You can refer to Maris' book on Connecticut cents for a couple of these.

Sincerely,

EPN/me

December 13, 1949

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
15 Aldin Lane
Island Trees, Hicksville
Long Island, New York

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EPN/me